

Series I
Correspondence,
1932-1973

Box 3, Folder 21

March 21, 1961 -
July 10, 1961

0602

12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
March 21, 1961

Dear John:

It has been some time since I received correspondence from you enclosing a letter from Dr. Wriston and being helpful in other ways. I haven't replied to you because I had expected to have something good or bad to tell you about my search through the Foundations but, as yet, I have nothing to report.

I can say that most of the Foundations have indicated that history was not in their agenda, at present, although there have been times when it had a high priority. The Foundations have also advised me that they don't like to take something which is half done. In other words, they suggested it would be better to start something with them and let them finish it as well, than to take something like my studies and merely finish them.

My talk with Dr. Wriston was excellent. He is a very fine gentleman and I appreciated my association with him. When I told him the cost of this operation per year, he said he doubted if I would get it. I was rather surprised at this because since talking with Dr. Wriston, I have talked with the Foundations and they say the money is not important, i.e. if they wish to do the job, they will do it and let the cost take care of itself.

There was one Foundation which commented on the cost. This is the James Foundation founded by Arthur Curtiss James and now worth about eight-four million dollars. I didn't see the head man, Mr. Coulson, but I have written him a letter today asking for a consideration of my problem.

I pointed out to him that the James Foundation was founded by Arthur Curtiss James, former Commodore of the New York Yacht Club as you were, and a well-known yachtsman with his "Aloha", and a very well known Newport, Rhode Island citizen, at least in the summer.

The secretary, Mr. Wellbrock, was pretty nice to me, although his whole manner indicated the chances were poor. It is of interest that the James Foundation must fold in 1966, that is in the next four-five years, at which time the whole estate will be allocated. I don't think that the James Foundation, at this moment, has anyone who really is interested in the sea or in the outcomes of actions on the sea. I am sure that Mr. Arthur Curtiss James did. I base this not only on what I think of Mr. James but what I have learned of you in the past years.

0603

I think that if someone could stir the James Foundation out of the paths they are on now, it might be a good thing. I hope you will forgive me for delaying writing to you. I felt, as I said in the beginning, I wanted something concrete to discuss.

It is my understanding that you and Ann are in Europe or perhaps have already returned. In this connection, I wish to say on Saturday I was a guest at the Twelfth Night Club where I delivered a little oration in accordance with the usual practice. It was a very pleasant affair.

I am enclosing herewith Dr. Wriston's letter to you, which I appreciated receiving but which I think you would probably like to keep in your own files. I have taken the liberty, however, of copying it.

With warmest regards to you and to Ann, I am

Yours sincerely,

R. W. Bates
Rear Admiral (ret.)

Mr. John Nicholas Brown
50 South Main Street
Providence, Rhode Island

0604

12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
May 12, 1961

Dear Dr. Bird:

You may have been wondering where I was and wondering whether you were going to hear from me. Well, the wonder is now over and I have been to see Chet Huntley and we had a most friendly and, in some ways, productive talk.

But before I discuss this, I want to say that my delay in writing you is due to the fact that I had to go to Topeka, Kansas first and then to Long Island to see the President of Long Island University. I only arrived in Newport this week.

Mr. Huntley told me he had written to you about your whole project and had said that it was with great regret he was unable to make the Monterey broadcast you desired. He said that the reason was this—he is off the air for the summer. Parenthetically, I would like to say that I think it is good for him to be off the air as he seemed quite tired, his eyes particularly so.

I then asked him, "Do you consider this Monterey Project of importance, or shall we say so well worthwhile, as to be worthy of a broadcast by yourself?" To this he replied that, yes, he would like to do the broadcast but once again was not going to be able to do so.

I then said, "There are other radio stations that have competent broadcasters of note and would you suggest that one of these be engaged for this purpose?" For some reason, he said no. He said he preferred to recommend that Dr. Bird have this whole thing filmed by competent photographers and then a proper film could be made, which film could then be shown throughout the world and would be effective everywhere. He said that in this country he, Huntley, would be, he thought, effective but not elsewhere in the world and, therefore, he asked me to strongly recommend to you the course of making a film.

So much for that.

I then talked to him about getting five stars for Admiral Spruance in place of Admiral Halsey, now deceased. He showed me two letters from the California Senators Engle and Kuchel and a third letter from Admiral Burke. All of them seemed quite in favor of getting the five stars for the Admiral. However, after showing me these three letters, Mr. Huntley stated that there was

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a block in this affair which was the United States Senior Senator, apparently, of the Senate Armed Services Committee, i.e. Senator Russell of Georgia. Mr. Huntley said he couldn't see why this Senator was taking this strong stand. I said I didn't know but it could be because the Congress had recently stopped the so-called Tombstone Promotions and they were afraid to open it up, even for a man of Spruance's stature.

I told him we shouldn't drop this, that there were other ways to do it and we talked this over. He said he would continue to try to find some means of getting Senator Russell—I'm sure it was Russell—to ease his stand. I said I would speak to the Auchincloss family about this and perhaps we might find means of getting it to the President. Whether the latter would be an effective source I don't know, but I think Mr. Kennedy should be alerted to this plan and given a chance to approve or disapprove rather than have it blocked long before it gets to him. I wouldn't feel like mentioning this anywhere were it not for the fact that I saw Admiral Burke's approval in the letter to Mr. Huntley.

I have nothing more to say on this matter at present, but I am quite ready always to help. I sincerely hope that all goes well in the end.

You have a fine friend in Mr. Huntley, you have good support in the Senator from California and may have good support on this matter from the Rhode Island Senators, if the matter is presented to them. I refer, of course, principally to Mr. Claiborne Pell, but it is possible that Senator Pastore might go along.

I want to thank you for the wonderful luncheon you gave to me in the Capitol Club in Monterey. I was sorry that Admiral Spruance could not be there, but I appreciated the presence of the other guests and I feel highly indebted to you for your thoughtfulness in my behalf.

For your information, I went to the Fleischmanⁿ Foundation in Reno—I had a two-hour talk with Mr. Bergen^{Yick} Chairman, and was advised that it did not follow their guide lines, as laid down in the Fleischmanⁿ will. Nevertheless, the whole trip was very pleasant and while waiting for my plane, I won \$150 on the Harrad 25¢ one-armed bandits.

I would say some more to you but my secretary, who is a real pro, is unable to take any more at this time and so with best wishes to you, with regrets at Mr. Huntley's position and the position of the Senior Senator above referred to, with hopes of better luck and good will I am, as ever

Your old friend,

R. W. Bates
Rear Admiral (ret.)

0606

12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
May 16, 1961

Dear Judge:

I have now returned from my trip to California and Nevada. I visited two Foundations—the Monterey Foundation and the Fleischmann Foundation. I discovered that the Monterey Foundation is largely language and is getting its money from other Foundations as well. The President happens to be a great friend of mine, Dr. Remsen Bird.

I went to the Fleischmann Foundation under the aegis of Frannie Baer. I called Baer and told him I was in town. He wanted to see me but I couldn't go to his place so he advised me to go to his bank branch in Reno, which I did. The bank must have arranged for me to meet Mr. Bergen, the head of the Fleischmann Foundation, because they received me almost with open arms. I talked to Mr. Bergen for two hours. He said he was very sympathetic with what we were doing and certainly thought it ought to be completed but the Fleischmann will did not allow our type of work. I didn't feel too bad about this for at Harrad's Club I played the quarter slot machines and won \$150.

Mr. Bergen suggested I go to the Russell Sage Foundation in New York, so I came back to New York and visited them where once again I was received with open arms. The head of that, Dr. Young, was a Seaman Second, in the Navy in World War I and his reminiscences kept him in good humor with me. He listened intently and then said about as follows—"I understand your problem. It is typical of the military. Whenever they get under any pressure financially, they always cut out research, whether past or present." He said they did it with him years ago and evidently they are still doing it. He further said, "I am sure that your work is tops and should be finished"—but that is as far as it went.

After leaving Russell Sage, I went down and saw Admiral Barnum who is assistant to the President of U. S. Steel. Barnum said that they hadn't been able to get the money for it, as yet, but they would continue to work on it. I really think that Admiral Barnum, who is a reserve admiral, wants to get behind this but all of these firms, notably U. S. Steel but also General Dynamics, have had bad years and we seem to be hitting them at a time when their faces and pocketbooks are somewhat strained.

The best advice I seem to have gotten from anyone was from Dr. Young, to the effect that in going to the Foundations with a thing such as my project, the chances of getting it were very poor

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today; on the other hand, he said if I could get a man who owns a Foundation or controls one to help out on his own such as Mr. Murchison of the Texas Murchisons, I might have stood a much better chance. Since my talk with Admiral Nimitz lasted several hours on the coast and since he reiterated his firm desire to get this finished, I am thinking of writing to him as a Texan to ask him if he would care to query one of his very wealthy Texas friends.

At the present point, I am stymied and expect to ride on this now until after Global Strategy, which commences this month, that is the Senior Reserves will be here in about two weeks.

I talked again to Admiral Beakley today and he reiterated what he said before. It was this—that Admiral Nimitz should approach Secretary Connolly and that Secretary Connolly was looking around to find something that he could put his hand on and say he did it. Of course, this is a common failing and yet a human and understandable failing among us all. We want to feel we are doing something. Admiral Beakley seemed to feel that getting it through Admiral Burke might be difficult in view of the original stand. He did not seem to think it would be difficult with the secretary.

I suggested to Admiral Nimitz when I was out on the coast, that he make this approach and he said he preferred to go to Admiral Burke direct and was going to do so. So there you are. Admiral Nimitz feels as I do—that it is not a wise idea to bypass the chain of command. Had I done it, as well I could have, I am sure the Section would be nearing the completion of the Leyte Study. I don't know whether you are coming to Global Strategy or not, but I am certainly coming down to see you if you don't come up here.

Meanwhile, I went to see Admiral Austin yesterday morning and he made the following statement—"I have discussed this project with Admiral Carney, who was recently here, and I am of the opinion that it should be finished but not in the Naval War College". To this he says Admiral Carney replied he accepts that view.

So there you are—the President of the War College approves, Admiral Nimitz approves, Admiral Carney approves, Admiral Connolly approves, you approve—where do we go from here?

Best regards as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. Bates
Rear Admiral (ret.)

Rear Admiral E. M. Eller
Chief of History, Main Navy
Constitution Avenue
Washington, D. C.

0608

12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
May 16, 1961

Dear Joe:

Thanks for the newspaper clipping on the passing of Bishop Shires. I know that you sent it because you remembered that he conducted the funeral services for both my mother and my father. I have never known a man in my entire life who, I felt, was more spiritual or who did more for the many who knew him. Thanks for the info.

I went to the PT boat banquet and it was one of the best we ever had. Two friends of yours were there--the under-Secretary of the Navy Fay and a Captain Clifford, USNR, a lawyer from San Francisco.

The under-Secretary made, in general, an extraordinary good speech with a lot of good humor and I think contributed a lot to the success of the party. For your information I also spoke, cracked a couple of jokes and, apparently, went over well. This was gratifying to me as actually I only spoke off the cuff.

The under-Secretary and I, for the short time of the party, were quite friendly and so was Mr. Clifford. However, and here is the point, I had the same reaction from them that I had from Judge O'Brien about this. Clifford said, "I don't see why your friend Sullivan wants to be the City Attorney; he's got a fine job now in his own office, is well thought of in the legal field and I can't see why he wants City Attorney." The under-Secretary inferred the same attitude. This, as you might expect, and I said in no uncertain terms, "The fact that Joe Sullivan wishes this job is enough for me. If he wants it, he has all the qualifications to have it and, therefore, should have it." To this Clifford replied, "I think that he would be a better candidate for mayor and would have a much better chance of winning." To this I replied that in my mind you wanted City Attorney as a step toward the mayorship--that you were honest, moral, trustworthy and familiar with the problems arising in all cities essential to San Francisco's welfare. That ended that!

I think you must face up to the fact, Joe, that there is a concerted action against you, at this point anyway, in your candidacy. For some reason, your principal opponent (is his name O'Connor?) has these fellows on his team. The fact that they all say the same thing three thousand miles apart, would indicate clearly that this is a concerted plan based upon group agreements. By this I mean to say that a group in power in San Francisco, for some reason, want to get Mr. O'Connor into the City Attorney's office and don't want you there. Why, I don't know, but I am so angry about it that you tell me what you want me to do, and I will see what I can accomplish.

0609

I am going to rush this through so I won't say too much about myself except to say that so far the Foundations have been extremely kind—my visit to the Russell-Sage Foundation in New York couldn't have been better and I enjoyed it. My visit with Chet Huntley of NBC fame was equally friendly and I enjoyed it. I visited him for Monterey but since you are not familiar with that, we won't bother at this point.

With best regards to you and yours, with regrets that you are not attending our Global Strategy Discussions this year (some of the people in the War College asked if you were coming only this morning), and with hopes that you will be able to clear up or discover an antedote of what seems to be thinking of O'Brien, Fay and Clifford I am, as ever

Your old friend,

R. W. Bates
Rear Admiral (ret.)

Captain J. Joseph Sullivan USNR
111 Sutter's Street
San Francisco, California

0610

12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
May 17, 1961

Dear Mr. Huntley:

Now that I have finally reanchored myself, at least temporarily in Newport, Rhode Island, I am seizing this opportunity to thank you very much for the kind attention you gave to me on my recent visit with you. I have written to Dr. Bird about this and have pointed out to him that you couldn't do the broadcast and thought that it would be much better to have the whole performance filmed, edited and then issued where it might be useable throughout the world. I know that Dr. Bird is very unhappy about all of this but I think he must recognize your position in the matter, particularly the fact that you will be off the air at that time for the summer.

I have been thinking over what we are going to do about Admiral Spruance. I presume that by now you have sent those letters from Senators Kuchel and Engles and from Admiral Burke. This will be good news to Dr. Bird but the fact that there is a blockage may not be such good news.

You stated to me that you were going to think of some way to approach it and I told you one of my thoughts. However, I can't do much until the family concerned arrives here unless I go to Washington, which I may do.

I want to tell you what a pleasure it was for me to meet you. You, as you well know, are quite a name in the broadcasting field and are well "above par for the course".

I will keep you advised, if you are interested, in what luck I have, if any. Let us hope that it is all to the good, for Admiral Spruance has been long recognized as being well worthy of five stars. I think that had the President not given five stars to Admiral Leahy, they would definitely have been given to Admiral Spruance.

With many thanks to you for your thoughtfulness and with best wishes for your continued success in your numerous undertakings, I am

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. Bates
Rear Admiral (ret.)

Mr. Chet Huntley
NBC
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York

0611

12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
June 1, 1961

Dear Admiral Nimitz:

Now that I am back in Newport, I thought I would write you a letter to tell you of the developments along the line of the completion of the Leyte Gulf Study. As you know, when I arrived on the coast I had a few Foundations still to hear from and I was to visit the Fleischmann Foundation in Reno. I visited this Foundation. They were very friendly, but they said as all Foundations say right now—this historical work is outside of their present guidelines. As a matter of fact, Mr. Bergen said that history was not included in the will. Mr. Bergen suggested that I see the Russell-Sage Foundation in New York. So on my return to New York, I went to the Russell-Sage Foundation where I was warmly greeted by Dr. Young, the President. We had a talk of about two hours and a half, and Dr. Young said that he was thoroughly convinced that the study should be completed but that, once again, his Foundation couldn't do it either.

He advised that no Foundation operating under guide lines, which includes most of them, would be able to handle work of this kind owing to certain basic restrictions on most of them. He, therefore, suggested that it might be best to visit a one-man Foundation—by that I mean to say, to visit a Foundation where the control is in the hands of one man. I did this in the case of Mr. Joseph Kennedy, the father of the President. He wrote back that he wasn't able to help me because he wasn't able to touch anything connected with the Government, lest it create a false impression.

I am now thinking of the Murchinson family—very fine and successful Texans who control vast sums of money and who might be quite ready, at your request, to back this Study. In fact, this concept was given to me by Dr. Young of the Russell-Sage Foundation above referred to, who said that he thought this was the best line of approach in view of the present condition of the Foundations.

Vice Admiral Beakley was up here and I spoke to him about this. Beakley reiterated what he had said in Washington some months ago—that he thought if Admiral Nimitz spoke to Secretary Connolly, the matter would be done. He pointed out that the Secretaries always are trying to find something to accomplish and that nothing had really come up for Secretary Connolly, as yet. I told him that I had mentioned this to you before and you had indicated you preferred to speak to Admiral Burke yourself directly.

0612

New Subject—I talked to your son-in-law over the phone to discover whether or not the package which you had wished me to carry to Newport had been received, as yet, by him. He said yes, that he had received it and that all was well. This gratified me greatly as I have been feeling somewhat embarrassed at my inability to help you with it.

Captain Lay is very pleased with his new house. I have been in that house many a day and I know that when they get through with it, it will be even better than it is now.

It has been raining heavily in Newport but except for that, everything seems fine.

We are about to be visited by Lillian McCormick who is coming east to christen the Lynde D. McCormick. I am giving a luncheon for her next Sunday for about fifty people at the Clambake Club. I certainly wish you and Mrs. Nimitz were here.

With best regards, I am as always

Yours sincerely,

R. W. Bates
Rear Admiral (ret.)

0613

2 June 1961

The Crowell-Collier Publishing Company
351 Park Avenue South
New York 10, N. Y.

Attention: Jay Du Bois

Gentlemen:

I am forwarding herewith my article on Naval Tactics for your encyclopedia. I am sorry if I seem to have been slow in providing it but, as I wrote you, your request for it was sent late and received late. An article of this nature for an encyclopedia such as Colliers must be up to date which your previous article most certainly is not.

I have therefore prepared this paper which has met, from competent high authority, comments such as "wonderful," "magnificent," and "very good indeed." Therefore I feel that this article is exactly what you desire.

The principle source of my delay was inability to obtain a competent stenographer. I finally had to obtain one from the Naval War College.

You may find this a little long. You gave me no word limit. This one adds up to about 1332 in a fast count. You can remove about 111 words by deleting paragraph four (4) commencing with "The most significant of these developments" although I recommend that it be published as is.

The Naval War College has indicated an interest in obtaining the right to use this in the College. If you publish it--and I certainly hope that you will--how do you release it to the College?

With many thanks for the privilege of being a contributor to your encyclopedia, I am

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

0614

12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
June 16, 1961

Dear Admiral Nimitz:

I have just received your last note to me, which certainly caused me considerable unhappiness. I had not written to you to suggest that you do anything for me and whereas I did suggest that it might be a good idea to speak to someone like Mr. Murchison, once again, I did not do it for myself.

I do not consider this my project. In 1950, I was asked by the President of the War College, upon the suggestion of the Chief of Naval Operations, to do the study of the Battle for Leyte Gulf. I refused to do it on the ground that it would take a very long time and because I had considerable interference, personnel wise, in writing my other three books. The then president of the War College, Vice Admiral Donald Beary, said that if I did do it, they would see to it that I was given all the help necessary with no problems.

Things turned out exactly that way and for about 7½ years I operated freely and easily with help from everyone. However, suddenly in 1957, December, the then President of the War College, Vice Admiral Stuart H. Ingersoll, called me into his office to say that he had brought up the matter of my Leyte Gulf Study with the powers-that-be in Washington and that they had decided to drop it. Naturally, I was quite concerned about this, as I had a definite agreement which had held for almost eight years. At this time, I had finished the first three volumes on the Battle for Leyte Gulf and since there were to be seven, I saw no way of finishing more than one more.

The Navy Department then on 30 June 1958 retired me but allowed me to remain with the Section, although retired, so that I might finish the Battle of Surigao Strait without any cost to the Government. In this connection, I don't mind saying that from the time I retired in 1949 until the time I was re-retired in 1958, I was working for nothing. In other words, my income when retired is greater than my income when on active duty. This is because of many factors. However, I believed thoroughly in what I was doing and I was willing to give my time and, if necessary, my remaining life to this project, as in 1949 I had been told I had about four years to live.

The question of the number of volumes which would be required for the Battle for Leyte Gulf, i.e. seven volumes, was thoroughly discussed with Admiral Lynde McCormick

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when he was President of the War College and he agreed thoroughly that there should be six volumes of action and one of continuity, battle lessons, etc. The Chief of History, Rear Admiral E. M. Eller, was very concerned about this and said that he was not going to have the reference material placed into numerous files but was going to keep it all together because he felt sure the Section would be reopened after a couple of years, at the most.

I like to think that I am working for the Chief of History and for many other officers, i.e. top officers such as Admiral Carney and yourself, to get this job finished.

In visiting Foundations, I had not thought that I was visiting them for myself but rather I was working, in this connection, for the Chief of History. In fact, the Chief of History has written several letters about it.

I have, on several occasions, suggested to the Chief of History that he take up the matter with the Chief of Naval Operations, to which he has given the general reply that he wanted to take it up with the CNO, once I had succeeded in getting a Foundation to back me.

I have never approved of this method and told Admiral Carney this, but Admiral Carney said that he felt that I should follow the advice of the Chief of History which I have done.

From all of this, I am trying to indicate to you that this is not my project but is rather becoming a project of the Chief of Naval History who is under the Chief of Naval Operations. I feel assured that Admiral Eller feels that if we can get a Foundation to support this, there will be no opposition from the CNO.

Admiral Carney's interest stems from the fact that he, or at least his staff, have read my Leyte volumes and find them very much to the point and very understanding of the problems existing at the time; and, since they feel that all that has been written to date, does not have this understanding, they desire me, if possible, to finish the work.

I feel that I should do it, as I am the sole continuity, and I feel that I should do it because I have been repeatedly told by the highest Naval authorities that I am the only one that can do it and is willing to do it.

I have spent considerable time visiting Foundations everywhere in support of this, what I term, Navy project and I am willing to continue to do so if the demand persists. In this connection, I have been reporting all of my actions to the Chief of History and I have taken it up with the present President

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of the Naval War College who says that he agrees with Admiral Carney, that it should be done but would prefer not to have it continued at the War College. I don't know why this is but I think it is largely a question of space and other factors.

I am awfully sorry to take your time in writing you this long letter but I do feel that my position should be made clear to you. The project was initiated by you as Chief of Naval Operations for most important reasons. Those who have seen the product think that it is very worthy indeed, in fact, distinctly unusual and they even go so far as to say it may be an historical landmark.

Finally, I wish to say, once again, that I am awfully sorry that I have caused you any concern over my efforts to obtain the support of one or more Foundations in furtherance of what I call this Navy project.

I am With warmest regards to you and Mrs. Nimitz,

Yours sincerely,

R. W. Bates
Rear Admiral (ret.)

Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz
728 Santa Barbara Road
Berkeley, California

0617

12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
June 19, 1961

Dear Judge:

When I was out on the coast, I had a long talk with Admiral Nimitz, about two hours duration, over my whole project. I told him one of the top Vice Admirals in Washington has suggested that I contact Mr. Connally, Secretary of the Navy. I told the Admiral I was opposed to it as I always follow the chain of command and the Admiral, at this time, said he agreed with this. As I think I told you, he told me that he was going to see Admiral Burke, himself, about it.

The other day I wrote him and told him that one of the Foundations in New York had suggested that we contact one of the Foundations run by one man, such as the Murchison, and suggested that maybe he might like to do it. To my surprise, the Admiral sort of blew up and said that he wasn't going to do that, that he was not going to see anybody without going through the CNO. This is the very point which I have mentioned to you on more than one occasion and to which you have repeatedly replied that you wanted the Foundation background first and then you would take it to the CNO—and further, you expected no trouble. The Admiral, also much to my surprise, said that we should first discover why it was stopped, find the roadblock and referred to it as "your project". This was a surprise to me as I do not consider it my project. I consider it a Navy project which was stopped before its completion and which should be re-opened according to a number of people, not the least of whom is yourself.

I have, therefore, written a letter to the Admiral, copy enclosed, explaining my position to the effect that this is not a Bates project but a project initiated at the War College by the CNO (Nimitz) and stopped by Admiral Burke.

I am planning to come down to Washington one of these days to see you and if you can give me an indication of your prospective moments, perhaps I can fit in my plans with yours.

Finally, I want to say I don't think the Admiral really read my letter clearly, in that I thought I handled it with an understanding boosted by himself in my repeated meetings with him. I am sure the Admiral wishes this completed as he has said so, so often, and with such earnestness that there can be no question about it but I did not realize that the Admiral thought it was my project, that I was working on it all alone with the hope of eventually having things so arranged as to cause the Navy Department to reverse its decision.

0618

This, naturally, I consider an untrue concept. I have been working on this for the Navy at the request of the Navy and at personal cost to me in finances and in, shall I say, a shortening of life. Don't read this in a sorrowful way as I feel fine.

Secretary Connally gave the graduation address and it was swell. I am very pleased with him.

With best regards I am, as ever

Your old friend,

R. W. Bates
Rear Admiral (ret.)

0619

12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
July 5, 1961

The President
Naval War College
Newport, Rhode Island

Dear Admiral Austin:

Although I filled out your GSD yellow sheet, as per instructions, I am writing an additional letter to comment more fully on these discussions, as I found the yellow sheet inadequate and, if I may say so, possibly seriously misleading.

This is the third GSD that I have attended as a full-fledged participant, and I feel that it was perhaps the best one of the three. This was not because I found my committee better than in previous years, but rather because I thought that the general arrangements seemed better and because the plenary session was distinctly better, largely because of the "panel".

And now for some general comment:

(a) Administrative.

(1) Luncheons. My committee lunched in town every day excepting on the day when the civilian guests were invited to the President's luncheon at the Commissioned Officers Mess (open). This I believe to have been a mistake. The civilians would like to meet other civilians and, therefore, at least one committee luncheon should be held at the above mess so that the different committees may mingle.

(2) Ball. The ball seemed well handled but ran on too long. I have always felt that the ball should end at 2400 (midnight). Although this year it closed at 0030, it is rumored that many did not go home until later (some as late as 0400). It is, therefore, my recommendation that the ball should not only end at 2400, but the guests should be asked to leave at that time. This will insure fresher minds for the plenary session.

(3) Clambake Club. Although many guests availed themselves of the Clambake Club and reportedly enjoyed it greatly, there were many who wished to do so but could not, because the moderators had made other arrangements. This seems to be largely the fault of the Clambake Club, which failed to invite the moderators. If that had been done then, perhaps, a little more leeway would have been provided by the moderators for those wishing to visit the Clambake Club.

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(b) Professional.

(1) Committee method of operation. As mentioned earlier, I have served on three committees during the past three years. Each committee operated differently. In the 1959 committee, the moderator provided nothing for the committee other than the agenda and endeavored to guide the committee into a written record of its deliberations; in the 1960 committee, the moderator provided considerable basic written information daily on each subject under discussion and then, likewise, endeavored to guide the committee into a written record of its deliberations. This year, 1961, the moderator had a designated student member of the committee make a 5-10 minute presentation (often using the blackboard) of the matter to be discussed at that "sitting" and then, like the other moderators above referred to, endeavored to guide the committee into a written record of its deliberations.

Comment: Although all methods proved effective, I believe that the 1960 and 1961 methods were the best. As regards the records of the deliberations, all of the above committees did equally well in providing a written record. It is my understanding that a number of committees failed to maintain such a written record. It is, therefore, strongly recommended that every committee be directed to provide such a record. This helps refresh the minds of the members of the committee and permits the observing staff to see the committees accomplishments.

(2) Plenary Session. As mentioned earlier, I thought that the plenary session was, in general, well done. There were, of course, faults. Among these were: (a) Committee 30—This committee, which was my committee, did not present its case adequately. The material was quite good, but the presentations were given without any particular emphasis, although the presenters were directed to do so. This meant that many listeners who might have been "sold" were not quite sure of what was being said. Also, the action of the moderator in attempting to "reply" directly to all of the questions from the floor, rather than to call upon one of his committee members to reply, proved somewhat ineffective; (b) Committee 31—This committee's presentation was clever with the "rocking chair" and the chair for Caroline, but this was overdone. This same criticism has been leveled before on similar endeavors to "purchase" good humor. While I am not adverse to having some humor on the platform, I think care must be exercised to avoid "overplaying".

(3) The Panel. This was an innovation and a good one. Since the panel was organized with little time for practice, weaknesses were bound to develop; however, I think that it accomplished its purpose and caused considerable questions to be asked by the listeners. I did not agree with certain viewpoints expressed by several of the members of the panel and notably by the military commentator who seemed intent on building "excess nuclear weapons". Committee 30's stand was that a determination should be made as to "when enough's enough".

(4) Yellow Sheet Evaluation. As pointed out earlier, the yellow sheet evaluation is inadequate and gives an impression of a lack of appreciation by the staff of the nature of the GSD. I am, therefore, enclosing a yellow sheet with some suggested changes.

(c) General.

I thought that all of the addresses given by the President and by the distinguished lecturers were excellent, and in very good fashion prepared the way for the committee meetings which followed them.

Finally I wish to say that as a result of this year's GSD, I am more than ever firmly convinced of the importance of these discussions in the realm of National Security and recommend that they not only be continued but expanded where possible.

Needless to say, I am very appreciative of the privilege of being a guest at this year's GSD and sincerely hope that any contribution of mine was helpful towards the accomplishment of the objectives of said GSD.

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. Bates
Rear Admiral (ret.)

Enclosures:

- (a) Questionnaire
- (b) Committee 30 Plenary Session Presentation

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12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
July 10, 1961

Dear Wicksey:

I have been wanting to write to you for some time, in fact ever since I departed for California—but I haven't been able to do much about it as I was constantly on the move. While my visit to California seem to most to be just a pleasure trip, actually, this was not so.

I was working for the Navy on what some of them termed "my project", but which actually is the project founded by the Chief of Naval Operations. What the Navy wished to do was to have me finish my writings (I have finished seven volumes) under a foundation, so I visited numerous foundations on the east coast to the west coast. I had very little luck, although I had a most delightful time meeting with and talking to the heads of these numerous foundations. Evidently, history, that is military history of the type exemplified by my books, is not in vogue at present. The Carnegie Foundation said "a few years ago we would have smothered you with the money you require. Today, arts and space requirements, etc. are taking most of our funds."

The matter has not, as yet, been settled so I don't exactly know what we are finally going to do. The only thing that I keep telling them is this—I am getting older and my recollections of continuity are getting weaker every day.

Newport is coming back to life with many of your old friends back, shall we say, in harness. Gus White is back from his European jaunt and looks surprisingly well. Hugh Auchincloss and family are here, the Dyers are back, Bill Kents, Peggy McIlwaine, et al.

There are, however, some unhappy features of this spring and early summer, one of which is the passing of our old friend, Julia Berwind and, if I may say so, her nephew and heir Charlie Dunlap is in pretty bad shape. Two things have done this—one, an over-indulgence in liquor and the other, arthritis. It is too bad because Charlie has a big responsibility with the Berwind estate. What is to be done with "The Elms" is not known.

Also Peggy Van Buren's mother died last week in Philadelphia. However, since I didn't know her and since she rarely was in this area, this hasn't had the effect that the passing of Julia had.

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We have several divorces in the offing. One which is settled temporarily is Charlie and Doris West. They have broken up and divorced but apparently the settlement is not final. Charlie lost a considerable amount in the settlement which includes \$800 a month, the house, the car, the education of the children, etc.

Another prospective divorce is that between Muriel and John Adams. John never talks about it and I never discuss it with Muriel. I am very fond of both of them and the whole thing has kind of upset me. I play backgammon with John in the afternoon and then go to a dinner at Muriel's at night and it is too bad.

On the medical side, Percy Frazier had an operation for what they thought was a growth in his intestines. He was operated on by Dr. Callahan and apparently has fully recovered. Last Monday, Mr. Louis Morris, Anita's husband, was operated on for prostrate trouble, also at the Newport Hospital, also by Dr. Callahan. This operation was surprisingly successful and Louis will soon be back in circulation.

Finally, Mrs. Andrew Charmers Wilson, Dr. Wilson's widow, was operated on sometime in early spring for, I think, an appendix. She is 90 years old. Somehow as a result of this operation, she has got a sort of mental block so that her conversation is disjointed and confused. She is an old friend of mine and because of this, they seem a little reluctant for me to see her. Let us hope for the best!

Now for the good side. Everything seems to be going well here including the Jazz Festival. The latter actually had quite a successful performance. The visitors to the Festival were less numerous than heretofore but there were very few incidents such as the riots of last year. The big star, of course, was Judy Garland who drew a large crowd.

As a matter of interest, although connected a little with the Jazz Festival but largely with the mayor and his friends, the Countess de Pourtales has been having her troubles. The mayor is sharing in a bar placed on William Street right behind the Countess' house on John Street. This has bothered her no end and they have finally ended up in court. It looks as though there will be some action taken to at least cut down the noise.

There will be an election tomorrow for a new council. The City seems to be up in arms against the present council which is, according to the rector of Trinity Church, "more detrimental to the City than any group has been in a long time". The rumors seem to be that the public is going to vote "the rascals out". Let's hope so.

The usual Newport social life is beginning to come to bloom and my social schedule, primarily because I have a pair of trousers, is beginning to show signs of too many parties. Every

now and then I escape to Connecticut, for instance, I visited the Dogwood Festival at Fairfield and it was wonderful. A few days ago I visited the Laurel Festival in Winsted, Connecticut (northwest of Hartford). I regret to say it wasn't much. When I see the beauty of the Dogwood and the relative lack of beauty of the Laurel, I cannot understand why Laurel is the native flower of Connecticut.

I am going up in a day or so to get strawberries near Hartford. These strawberries grow really in bushes and are terrific. They are very large and tasty. Since my secretary's mouth is watering, I will have to bring her a basket.

Sylvia Talmadge held quite an auction the other day where she auctioned off quite a large part of her belongings of linen, china, silver, etc.

I see your butler Charles around. He seems rather gay and is quite popular with many people. As you know, Henry Evitts is shorthanded and Charles helps him out.

Now for a couple of jokes to get you in good humor.—

When I was down in La Paz, Mexico, as I perhaps told you, the Mexican girls wondered why I was a bachelor and I said the priest wouldn't let me marry a mermaid on the ground that a mermaid wasn't a proper bride. I told this to Father Brown who used to be director of St. John's Church here and Father Brown said the priest was quite right. The trouble with a mermaid is there is not enough woman to love and not enough fish to eat.

Sam Snead, the great golf pro, was putting on an exhibition in Connecticut the other day. One of the radio broadcasters, Jack Sterling, was there and heard this happen. A father was telling his boy about what a great pro Sam Snead was and held up his son to watch Sam drive off before a very large crowd. However, before driving off, Sam took a practice swing and, of course, missed the ball as he wasn't attempting to hit it. The boy screamed aloud 'he missed it, Daddy', which caused a great uproar and upset Sam so that he really didn't hit it quite as well as might be expected.

Another story about a boy which is very funny is about the boy who sucked his thumb. His mother was quite worried about it and told him to stop it. Since he wouldn't do it, she went to the doctor who said just forget it, that he will outgrow it. This didn't suffice the mother so she went to some of her female friends and asked what to do. They said give him the fear treatment, so she went home and there was Johnny sucking his thumb. She looked at him and said 'Johnny, if you keep sucking that thumb, your tummy

will swell up and may even burst!' Johnny took his thumb out of his mouth and kept it out all day. However, some friends came in for tea and one of them was a young woman about to become a mother and noticeably pregnant. Johnny came in, took one look at her and said, "aha, I know what you've been doing", which broke up the party.

They have a new joke being featured by Betty Dyer which is really a question. This is it. Do you know why a woman's breasts are like a martini? The answer, of course, is always no and then comes the reply, "because one's not enough and three's too many".

With best wishes for your happiness and best regards to Marion, if she is still with you I am, as ever

Your old friend,

R. W. Bates
Rear Admiral (ret.)

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